



Walking with Offa 9



Food, drink and accommodation
Imagine patrolling the border without a decent pub. How would Offa's Dyke have been built without them? Over a thousand years later, keep up the tradition and stop for a drink or a bite to eat at **The Baron at Bucknell**.

The Baron at Bucknell

is a charming country inn with excellent home cooked food and five luxury en-suite rooms, so you could enjoy the hospitality and then stay the night.
Contact Debbie and Phil on 01547 530549.



www.baronatbucknell.co.uk

The Baron is open Monday to Friday 12.00 - 3.00 and 6.30 - 11.00

Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, open all day from 12 noon.

Food is served at lunchtime 12.00 - 2.00 and evenings 6.30 - 8.30 (not Sunday evenings other than Bank Holidays). Camping is also available, contact Phil and Debbie for details.

There are other lovely places to stay around Bucknell. See www.exploremortimercountry.com.

Getting there:

BY TRAIN: Bucknell is on the Heart of Wales railway line. Please see National Rail website www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 08457 484950.

BY BUS: ShropshireLink Zone 2 may be able to transport you to Bucknell from Bishop's Castle, Knighton, Clun, Craven Arms or surrounding areas. Journeys can be booked up to seven days in advance or with as little as 24 hours notice. Bookings are handled on a first served basis so where possible, book early. Call 0345 6789068 (charged at local rates) and ask for The Baron at Bucknell, Stop Reference 16011.

BY CAR: car parking is available at The Baron at Bucknell.

To get the best from your walk we recommend comfortable walking boots, waterproof jacket and overtrousers, warm clothing, gloves and warm hat or sun cream and sun hat (depending on the season!), a mobile phone and something to eat and drink. Sheep and cattle are often in the fields on these routes – dogs must be kept under close control or on leads at all times.

Walking with Offa Promoting the Welsh English border as a great place to get your boots on, enjoy the beautiful countryside and indulge in some fabulous food and drink.



For more details contact the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership on **01588 674080** or see www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk

Many thanks to Mike Starr from Bucknell for developing this walk.
Photographs by Bob Craddock.



The series of **Walking with Offa** circular walks guides are also downloadable from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk

Design: www.thinkgraphic.co.uk
Illustrations by Alan Duncan www.asduncanillustration.co.uk



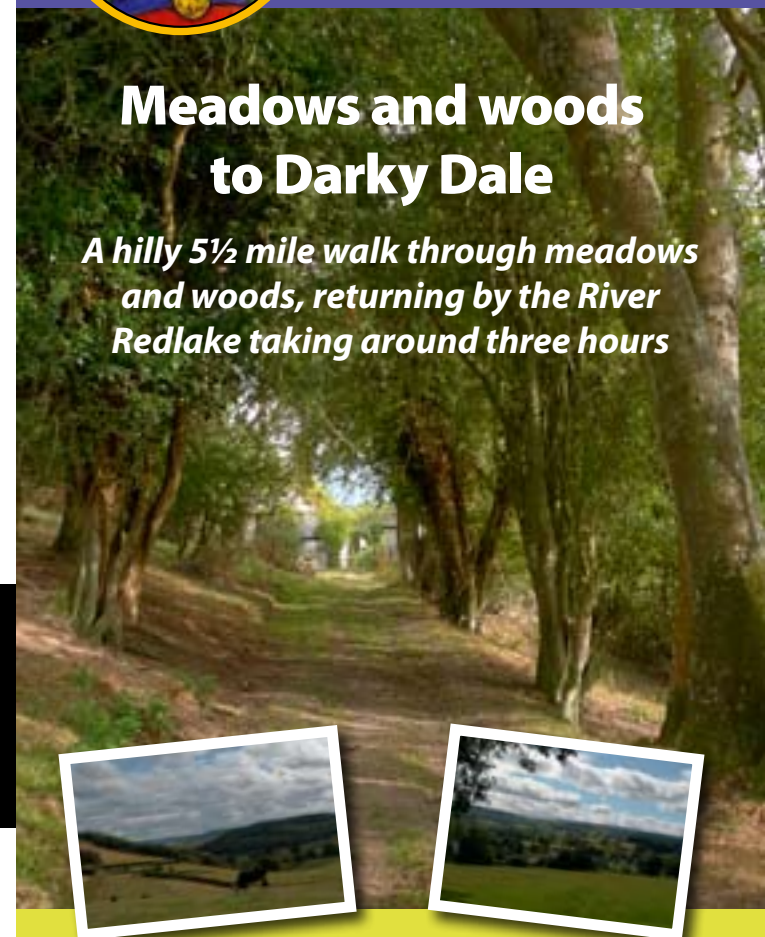
This project has been supported by Advantage West Midlands' Natural Assets Programme in partnership with Natural England.



Walking with Offa 9

Meadows and woods to Darky Dale

A hilly 5½ mile walk through meadows and woods, returning by the River Redlake taking around three hours



The Welsh English Border - where King Offa met his match!

One of a series of walks with spectacular views and glimpses of history, wildlife and archaeology.

in the Shropshire Hills



Walking with Offa 9

Meadows and woods to Darcy Dale

A hilly 5½ mile walk through meadows and woods, returning by the River Redlake taking around 3 hours

Start at the Baron at Bucknell, SY7 0AH

- ① Turn left out of The Baron at Bucknell and walk along the Chapel Lawn road to the first bend. Turn left here into Dog Kennel Lane, then left again onto a bridleway just past the house called Caverswall. Go through a gate and up the hill, keeping close to the field boundary on your right. Continue through a 2nd gate and go up to the top of the next field, keeping close to the sunken path on your left. *Take a moment to look over your shoulder and admire the fine view of Bucknell.*
- ② Cross the junction and follow the lane (signposted Mynd) to shortly cross a stile on your right. Go left to cross a stile to the right of gate in field corner then slightly right to cross another and then head up through three kissing gates to a road just right of a house. *Looking back gives views of Brampton Bryan Hill, with the wooded Coxall Knoll (an ancient hill fort) to its left.*
- ③ Turn right and walk up the road to the next junction, where you turn left and pass Mynd Farm. Climb the stile on your right just past the farm buildings and cross the top of the sloping field beyond, keeping fence to your left. *Fine views of the Cleve Hills ahead.* Go down through the gate (or cross the stile) near the field corner and descend steeply to a stile. Turn right onto the road and almost immediately turn left through a wooden gate and drop down into Darcy Dale. Go through a metal gate and bear left into a marshy area by a small stream.
- ④ After 30 yds cross the stream (no bridge) and aim right for the waymark post, then follow the markers up the hill opposite. After a brief climb follow the waymarks back downhill to a stile and enter a wood. Pick your way through fir trees, keeping the stream on your left, then bear right at the end of the wood and continue uphill. At the top turn left and go a short distance uphill to meet a major forest track.

- ⑤ Turn left and follow this track about ⅓ mile until you see a sign saying "No Mountain Bikes". Bear left here and drop down a grassy track through two gates. Swing left in front of the cottage 'Gripesnest', go through a metal field gate, and then walk up past the iron barn to the next gate, where you enter Hopton Wood.
- ⑥ Keep straight on, climbing gently through this wood (ignoring a track on the right after 50 yds) until it emerges at a junction of many paths at the top.
- ⑦ Go through the kissing gate onto a wide open pasture. *You are now looking at the Chapel Lawn valley, dominated on the far side by the bare hill of Caer Caradoc. This is an Iron Age hill fort with impressive ramparts at the top.* Carry on downhill over several stiles to a kissing gate above a house. Go down the grassy bank and through the next gate on the left and carry on down the field to the Chapel Lawn road in the valley bottom.
- ⑧ Turn left onto the road and follow it for about ½ mile. Where the road bends sharply right, go through the gate on your left. Bear right and take the grassy track uphill, through a gate and past a line of redwoods on your right.
- ⑨ Swing right past these trees, through a gate and keep to this bridleway as it contours round the base of Bucknell Hill above the river Redlake.
- ⑩ Two more gates lead you onto a road, which you then follow downhill for about ½ mile into the village of Bucknell. You emerge at a road junction with the pub immediately on your left.

